

IN THE CLAIMS:

~~Please cancel claim 12.~~

~~Please amend claims 1, 5, 17, 20 and 21 to read as follows:~~

*B*  
*AS*

1. A connector for providing a connection between an opposing connector and a circuit board, the opposing connector having an elongated insertion end for mating with the connector, said connector comprising: an insulative housing supporting a plurality of conductive terminals, the terminals each having contact portions and tail portions, the tail portions extending outwardly and away from the connector housing, the connector housing having a body portion and distinct top and bottom wall portions extending therefrom, the connector housing top and bottom portions being disposed on said body portion to define a space therebetween adapted to receive said opposing connector insertion portion therein, the contact portions of said terminals being disposed in said space and between said top and bottom wall portions, said connector housing not having any sidewalls interconnecting said top and bottom wall portions together such that said connector housing has a generally U-shaped cross-section;

a retainer comprising a metal shield that overlies a portion of said connector housing, the retainer shield having three distinct retention members formed thereon, each of the retention members extending at least partially into said space between said connector housing top and bottom wall portions for engaging opposing portions of said opposing connector inserted into said space, each of said retention members further extending into said space from three different directions; and

an outer metal shell having a plurality of different panel portions, some of which overlie portions of said connector housing, the shell member having a front face panel that extends vertically between said connector housing top and bottom wall portions, two side panels that extend vertically between said connector housing top and bottom wall portions and close off said space therebetween to define a four sided receptacle of said connector, the front face panel having an opening formed therein that communicates with said receptacle, two of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said side panels and

*A3* the third of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said connector housing top wall portion.

*A4* 5. The connector as set forth in claim 4, wherein said shell includes a top panel portion integrally formed with said front panel portion, said top panel portion overlying part of said retainer shield and said connector housing top wall portion, said shell side panel portions being integrally formed with said panel front portion, said top and side panel portions being folded along side edges of said connector housing top wall portion.

*A5* 17. A receptacle connector for providing electrical connection between an opposing plug connector with a circuit board, the opposing connector having an insertion end for mating with the receptacle of said connector, comprising:

*A6* *B2* an insulative housing, the connector housing supporting a plurality of conductive terminals, the connector housing having distinct top and bottom wall portions defining an interior receptacle in which said terminals are supported, the receptacle being sized to receive said plug connector insertion end when said plug connector is mated to said receptacle connector, the housing not having any sidewalls interconnecting the top and bottom wall portions together;

a retainer shield for shielding a portion of said connector housing and for engaging a plurality of exterior surfaces of said plug connector insertion end, the retainer shield including a body portion that is bent to overlie at least three distinct sides of said connector housing, said retainer shield further including at least two retention members formed therewith and projecting into said connector housing interior receptacle, said two retention members being oriented in distinct vertical and horizontal planes so as to exert a retaining force from two different directions on two different surfaces of said plug connector insertion end when inserted into said receptacle.

*A6* 20. The connector of claim 19, wherein said outer shell member overlies a portion of said retainer shield and at least partially retains said retainer shield in place on said connector housing.

21. A connector for providing a connection between an opposing connector and a circuit board, the opposing connector having an elongated insertion end for mating with the connector, said connector comprising:

an insulative housing supporting a plurality of conductive terminals, the connector housing having a body portion with distinct top and bottom wall portions extending therefrom, the connector housing top and bottom portions defining a receptacle therebetween adapted to receive said opposing connector insertion portion therein, said connector housing not having any sidewalls interconnecting said top and bottom wall portions and defining part of said receptacle;

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a retainer shield that overlies a portion of said connector housing, the retainer shield being formed from metal blank and having three distinct retention members formed therewith, each of the retention members extending at least partially into said receptacle for engaging an opposing portion of said opposing connector inserted into said receptacle, each of said retention members further extending into said receptacle from three different direction; and,

an outer metal shell having a plurality of different panel portions disposed on some portions of said connector housing in overlying relationship, the shell member having a front face panel that extends vertically between said connector housing top and bottom wall portions, two side panels that extend vertically between said connector top and bottom wall portions, said connector receptacle, the front face panel having an opening formed therein that communicates with said receptacle, two of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said outer shell side panels and the third of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said outer shell and said connector housing top wall portion.